

Supported Employment Leadership Network (SELN)
Meeting

Date: February 26, 2015
Location: 111 N Sanders Rm 207
Time: 10:00 – 3:00 pm.
Location: 111 N Sanders Rm 207, Helena

Attendees: Kelly McNurlin (DDP), Randy Winstead (Family Outreach), Stacy Mader (DDP), Jenny Harris (DLI), Jennifer Finnegan (DDP), Diana Tavary (PLUK), Tim Plaska (DDP), Karen Cech (recorder).

Phone Attendees: Diane Reidelbach (Job Connection), Lori Idland (DRM), Lori Lundberg, (DDP CM Supervisor Reg 5), Shannon Merchen (DDP Reg 3 Man.), Laurel Gebo (DDP Reg 2 Man.)

10:00 – Noon (call-in only)

- **Opening Remarks** – Morning session will be a call in meeting that will review the agenda topics and a webinar will take place at 1:00 pm.

- **Continuation of SELN -**

There was expressed concern from the SELN workgroup on whether the group will continue after Fiscal Year end. The benefits of SELN expressed by group:

1. Assist Disability Transition or help with ideas with WIOLA - 15% of funding to be used in transition of individuals with disabilities in school transition into employment.
2. Surveys beneficial for data for legislation.
3. Federal requirements being mandated for transition into employment.
4. If group does not continue through DDP another department may need to coordinate. Group expressed that SELN is valuable and important for employment and moving individuals forward to achieve this goal.

- **Discussion with Rie Kennedy-Lizotte and John Butterworth from the National Supported Employment Leadership Network (SELN) project team**

- On Kelly's monthly SELN call with Rie and John, Kelly mentioned the SELN workgroup was reviewing areas of focus from the survey a couple of years ago to see what direction the group should focus on next. Rie and John suggested that instead of re-trying to address the old items that it may be good to do another state survey and that they could return to Montana to coordinate this meeting.

It has been four years since the last survey was done with Rie and John and the SELN workgroup agreed that it would be good to have another survey done. The last survey was web based and was sent out to a list of stakeholders. The first survey was comprehensive but this

next survey can be more abbreviated and not as in depth. Rie and John will collect the data and give the Montana SELN workgroup the outcomes.

The SELN workgroup agreed:

1. Rie and John should do another survey.
 2. Stakeholders are encouraged to send any suggested questions or topics for the survey to Kelly McNurlin at KMcNurlin2@mt.gov before March 26th. Kelly will forward them to Rie and John.
 3. March meeting - call or webex with Rie and John to discuss topics and ideas of what group wants for survey and what has been forwarded to them.
 4. Face to face meeting schedule for May 20th or May 21st with Rie and John.
- **Review of employment data spreadsheet components** - Decide on timelines to send and receive information.

Kelly reviewed with the workgroup the employment survey spreadsheet and the instructions to the survey spreadsheet.

- Spreadsheet was reviewed and updates made - Small Group Employment was changed to Community Group Employment
- Instruction sheet was reviewed and dates will be change to coincide with April 2015 dates.
- Survey will be any 2 consecutive weeks in the month of April 2015.
- Individual must be 16 years of age or older that may have had paid employment (if individual did not receive waiver day or work services through DDP we are not collecting employment data on them at this time).
- 3 months or a full tax year worked was discussed for self employment. Will be an option to report either.
- Survey is about:
 1. What employment/environment or setting are individuals working in?
 2. What are they earning? How many hours?

Question - Diana Tavary asked if Self-Directed individuals get the chance to fill out the survey. This was not an option on the last survey.

Sections of the spreadsheets are identifies as:

- Individual info (demographic portion) – client name, AWACS #, birthdate, gender, agency providing case management
- Work Settings – Individual Integrate Job, Small group employ, facility based work, Self Employment
- Was the Ind employed/earning wages for 8 of the last 12 months –
- Enter any comments or clarification -

When data is filled out the spreadsheet will be sent through THERAP. Kelly or Jennifer will combine data and submit a report to the SELN workgroup. (see instructions on the survey)

The goal is to consistently gather employment data from a survey once a year and to acquire a system that can do this process. It will be interesting to see what trends may come of future surveys.

Kelly will look into more efficient data collection systems again.

- **Legislative Update -**

Charlie Briggs of Easter Seals Good Will wanted to report on a couple of bills:

- HB 451 - Revised funding for students with disabilities to cover to age 21.
- HB 337 - Increase resource limits for Medicaid program for workers with disabilities.
- State Plan Medicaid Autism Group
 - Rebecca deCamara has oversight of group.
 - Members will be a balance from all areas.
 - Novelene Martin will have oversight.
 - DDP will handle funding portion.

- **Workgroup project need for volunteers -**

Kelly is reviewing the SELN workgroup list and is looking to determine core members. Rose Hughes was emailed to see if 3 or 4 providers would represent the MACDS group ongoing in SELN. Kelly will also look to see if there are a few non-MACDS members that want to participate on an ongoing basis. From the SELN core members, a smaller workgroup will be created to work on some employment-specific clarifications requested by Novelene.

- **Topic for later discussion -**

Supported Employment Services – There was a comment made during discussions that some community employers think individuals are getting paid wages through the state on a long term basis when going through Vocational Rehabilitation. The group may possibly want to discuss this topic further in the future. Some think this may get worse with WIOA.

1:00 – 3:00 Webinar Recording: *Earnings, Benefits, and Supporting Decisions about Work.* (strategies and resource information that can support the decision about working)

The next SELN meeting is March 26 from 10-3 pm at 111 N Sanders Rm 207, Helena.